

Subject: May 31 - budget meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 9:40 AM
From: [REDACTED]
To: Lolita Morelli
Conversation: May 31 - budget meeting

Dear Ms. Porfido,

While listening to the dire financial information about Hayward, I felt that your Staff was doing a careful job of allocating funds, BUT I have a very grave concern about a Hayward institution being eliminated. I doubt that Staff realizes that The Hayward Municipal Band has been serving and representing the City of Hayward for 54 years, and its importance to the 350 to 500 who attend the summer concerts.

Our musicians have spent many years making beautiful music. This evening I looked through the old ledgers which confirmed that one gentleman has been in the band since 1959. His two sons, also excellent musicians have been in the band since 1970 and 1973. Our superior trombone player joined in 1969 as well as our talented Oboist, and a lady who plays Baritone Sax. Looking at the names brought back memories of the great band we have had over the years. My husband, Tony Morelli, was appointed as the director for the 1960 season by the founders, Tony Nunes and Ed Mendonca. He built and successfully guided the band for 38 years. Our daughter, Kathy, who had served as assistant conductor, and is well respected by the musicians, took over for the 1998 season after Tony's sudden death. The band has had 13 highly successful seasons under her leadership. I am a member of the band and helped my husband with the music, and now have taken over the management. In addition to the above mentioned members, there are many other musicians who have been with the band over 25 years and the loyalty of all members contributes to the success.

The highly skilled musicians are dedicated to the group and plan their summer activities so as to not interfere with the band season which has traditionally started on Fathers' Day continuing for 6 Sundays. Their lives and the lives of their families revolve around the band. Our grant application was for \$18,746. Last year we received \$16,533. Considering the financial situation, we could have a band season with the same amount as last year. Kathy, the conductor and I will not receive leader pay, but we want to Keep The Music Going In Hayward!

Over the 54 years, the City has purchased three sets of uniforms and the band has represented the city looking, as well as sounding, professional. In the past we performed yearly at the Zucchini Festival, The Alameda County Fair, July 4th at Weekes' Park, and the Veterans' Day Parades. The city funded all these performances as well as other civic events.

There are many reasons this band is superior, including the personnel, the director, the quality and variety of the repertoire, and the fact that we rehearse before the season starts. Each carefully selected weekly program includes a variety of music from classical to modern, Latin, calypso, musicals, jazz, marches and swing, always ending with the Stars and Stripes Forever in which the audience participates by clapping and marching.

HARD designs, prints and mails over 1200 postcards to persons on the mailing list. The band concerts are listed in their summer activities handbook. The stage in Memorial Park was designed by my husband and built by HARD and the city. The band stand and Memorial Park are well maintained by HARD. Fairway Park Baptist Church has provided, without charge, a storage room, a large gym in which to rehearse, and a security person.

Our large, enthusiastically appreciative, and supportive audiences of all ages, backgrounds and ethnic groups would be devastated if the concerts did not take place.

Please KEEP THE MUSIC GOING IN HAYWARD!

Sincerely,

Lolita Morelli, Manager
Hayward Municipal Band